

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, UR, NZ
SUBJECT: GNZ REACTION TO SOVIET DISSIDENTS' TRIALS

REF: (A) STATE 178559, (B) WELLINGTON 03600

REFTEL (B) CONTAINS GNZ REACTION TO SOVIET DISSIDENTS'
TRIALS. FULL TEXT OF GOVERNMENT NOTICE OF MOTION
MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTEL (B) FOLLOWS.

"PRIME MINISTER MULDOON TO MOVE, THAT THIS HOUSE NOTES
WITH DEEP CONCERN THE SEVERE SENTENCES WHICH HAVE BEEN
IMPOSED RECENTLY UPON A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF THE
SOVIET UNION FOR SEEKING TO EXERCISE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS
INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEPART FREELY FROM THEIR COUNTRY.
THE HOUSE EXPRESSES ITS STRONG HOPE THAT THE GOVERN-
MENT OF THE SOVIET UNION WILL HEED THE APPEALS FROM THE
PEOPLE OF MANY COUNTRIES INCLUDING NEW ZEALAND FOR
THESE SENTENCES TO BE REVIEWED ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS
WITH A VIEW TO LENIENCY. THE HOUSE IS ALSO AWARE THAT
ON 10 JULY TRIALS BEGAN IN THE SOVIET UNION OF TWO
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CITIZENS, ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY AND ALEXANDER GINSBURG.
NOTING THAT THERE ARE ASPECTS OF THESE TWO CASES WHICH
HAVE CAUSED SERIOUS MISGIVINGS AND ANXIETY IN NEW
ZEALAND AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, THE HOUSE WISHES THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION TO KNOW THAT THE CONDUCT
OF THE TWO TRIALS AND THEIR OUTCOME WILL BE FOLLOWED
BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WITH THE CLOSEST ATTENTION

AS INDEED WILL ALL OTHER TRIALS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
ACTIVISTS IN THE SOVIET UNION."

2. ON SAME DATE (JULY 12) MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
WAS ASKED IN PARLIAMENT WHETHER HE WOULD JOIN "OTHER
WESTERN NATIONS AND MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SOVIET
GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE CONTRAVENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
THE RECENT 'SHOW' TRIALS IN WHICH IDA NUDEL AND
VLADIMIR SLEPAK WERE ACCUSED OF 'MALICIOUS HOOLIGANISM'
BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO BE REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES
IN ISRAEL?

- IN REPLY, ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LANCE
ADAMS-SCHNEIDER SAID:

"THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT AWARE OF ANY CONCERTED MOVE BY
OTHER WESTERN NATIONS TO PROTEST TO THE SOVIET GOVERN-
MENT OVER THE TRIALS TO WHICH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER HAS
REFERRED. THE QUESTION OF JOINING OTHER COUNTRIES IN
THE WAY HE HAS SUGGESTED HAS NOT, THEREFORE, ARISEN.
NEVERTHELESS, THE GOVERNMENT DOES SHARE THE DEEP
PUBLIC CONCERN IN NEW ZEALAND ABOUT SUCH TRIALS IN THE
SOVIET UNION AND THE HARSH PENALTIES IMPOSED ON INDI-
VIDUALS WHO, BY ANY REASONABLE STANDARDS, HAVE MERELY
SOUGHT TO EXERCISE WHAT WE IN THIS COUNTRY WOULD REGARD
AS BASIC FREEDOMS. THE SENTENCING OF IDA NUDEL AND
VLADIMIR SLEPAK TO INTERNAL EXILE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS.
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EQUALLY TROUBLING IS THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES' HARSH TREAT-
MENT OF MEMBERS OF THE SO-CALLED HELSINKI GROUP, WHO
HAVE ENDEAVOURED TO MONITOR THE SOVIET UNION'S IMPE-
MENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT TO WHICH THE SOVIET GOVERN-
MENT SUBSCRIBED AT THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE IN 1975.
WE RECALL THE TRIAL AND SENTENCE IN MAY OF DR. YURI
ORLOV, AND SHALL FOLLOW VERY CLOSELY THE FORTHCOMING
TRIALS OF ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY AND ALEXANDER GINSBURG.
MANY NEW ZEALANDERS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DISQUIET TO
THE GOVERNMENT OVER THIS SITUATION, AND THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS INSTRUCTED LAST MONTH TO BRING
THIS CONCERN TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.
AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO ACCEPT THAT
THERE ARE STRICT LIMITS TO WHAT IT CAN SAY OFFICIALLY
ABOUT ANOTHER GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF ITS INDIVIDUAL
CITIZENS. THE CORRECT CONDUCT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
STATES NORMALLY PRECLUDES OUR MAKING SPECIFIC REPRESENTATIONS FOR LENIENCY IF NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS ARE NOT INVOLVED. IT REMAINS THE GOVERNMENT'S HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONCERN EXPRESSED IN MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD WILL NOT BE LOST ON THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND THAT THIS WILL CAUSE THEM TO ADOPT A

MORE HUMANE ATTITUDE TO PEOPLE WHOSE SOLE CRIME, IT SEEMS, IS THAT OF FOLLOWING THEIR OWN CONSCIENCE. NEW ZEALAND FOR ITS PART WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS STRONGLY IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL BODIES FOR UNIVERSAL OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANTS. IT IS UNREMITTING PRESSURE OF THIS GENERAL KIND, RATHER THAN SPECIFIC DIRECT REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL CASES, THAT IS MOST APPROPRIATE IN OUR VIEW FOR US TO UNDERTAKE."
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